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CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES

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April 5, 1974

SOCCEROOS ARE BEING LED TO CUP SLAUGHTER!

— By MIKE RENWICK —

Chile and Zaire are already in camp... East Germany play an international every Wednesday... the Brazilians have been together since the middle of March... the Poles will play at least eight matches, the Haitians eleven...

That's how some of the teams prepare for the World Cup. Some, but not all.

Because Australia doesn't prepare at all.

Unbelievably, our officialdom is still totally apathetic and seemingly unaware of the tasks the team must face in less than 80 days.

Last week it was jubilantly announced that Uruguay "might" play two matches here in April.

The accent is on the might. Since January, we have heard that the Chileans, Paraguayans and Mexicans are all coming. None has arrived.

If you're a betting man, we'll give you better than even money against the Urus turning up.

But even if they do, so what? Is THAT a World Cup preparation? Four or five matches in months?

One fears that the leading lights within the ASF simply don't realise the enormity of the hurdles in our team's path.

Facing either Germany, even with a full preparation, is always a frightening proposition; without any proper preparation it's sheer suicide.

The Australian team's occasional nocturnal get-togethers on Wednesdays are a mere sop.

The team should be playing a tough match every fortnight, at least.

But what team? We have a squad of 40, announced

two weeks ago — a useless exercise if we ever saw one.

Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and some others have selected their 22 players. Oh yes, but they have nothing to choose from. Not like us, where world class players roam the streets in embarrassing numbers...

What's the use of having 40 in a squad when Rale Rasic knows damn well the names of at least 20 already he will want to take to Germany?

Or this is perhaps some sort of a secret weapon — ALL 40 Socceroos fielded, at once, at Hamburg's Volkspark stadium?

A tight squad should train together and play every week.

Okay, we don't have to officially announce the final squad of 22 until June, but how often will Rale and his 40 get together, let alone train or play?

Actually, the most sensible thing would be to nominate the 22 players at once — and send them to Europe early May to play a series of matches there, every third or fourth day.

Sir Arthur George should take the lead firmly in this matter and read the riot act to the reactionary NSW Federation, slow-witting its way to a World Cup fiasco.

And he should be backed by team manager John Barclay, all too quiet in his Melbourne den.

They should say: "The team is GOING; your players will be RELEASED —

and what you do with your domestic competition is your business."

And should some little, parochial club official raise objections, let every newspaper in this country print his name so that we will know, at the end of time, just who is to be blamed for our pending catastrophe and who should be expurgated from our soccer for good.

Money, at this stage, should be no problem: if the team's extra weeks in Europe cost another \$10,000 or even more, so what? Hasn't the ASF and the syndicate already spent twenty times that much to get this far?

Are we now near the end, becoming penny-pinching to an insane degree, with so much at stake?

The World Cup is NOT the Ampol Cup; our opponents will NOT be nonentities like Indonesia and Iraq.

If, because of the lack of an honest and thorough preparation, our opponents will make hamburgers and berlines of our team, this will not be done in some obscure, backwater village but in full view of some 600 million TV fans all over the world.

And not the players, but the narrow-minded, bigoted, feuding, jealous and sectarian officials and administrators will be hanged or quartered.

That much we promise.



No question who's the boss in this situation! APIA goalie John Roberts shows a clean pair of hands to team-mate Bobby McGinn (No. 2) and Croatia's Mike Harris at Marks Field last Sunday.

APIA SET FOR THIRD WIN

— By LOU GAUTIER —

APIA, the only team on full points in Sydney First Division, should carry on in winning vein this weekend when they meet Yugal-Prague at Lambert Park.

Yugal, who started the championship better than

anyone could have expected after their wretched Ampol Cup displays, have a good record at Leichhardt, but APIA's all-round solidity should prevail.

St. George-Budapest and Safeway, who have played one match more, both have tough assignments on Sunday.

Auburn will be no push-over at Hurstville Oval and Marconi, unbeaten in their seven matches this season, are even entitled to slight favoritism against the provincials at Woonona.

Let's hope, however, that this week's appearance on the coast is less tumultuous than their last visit there when three players were sent off in the sensational Ampol Cup match against Canterbury.

Pan Hellenic, who flopped dismally at Seymour

Shaw Park, will have to improve to beat Hakoah.

Hakoah are bound to come good sooner or later. Their form this season is too bad to be true. They may start their long overdue revival at Hellenic's expense, despite what will certainly be a very hostile atmosphere.

The Ampol Cup fracas at Garside Park and the Muniz affair will send the temperature soaring at Wentworth Park.

A win is vital for both teams, who badly need to convince their fans they can play a major role in the 1974 championship.

Western Suburbs, at home to Sutherland, haven't fired yet this season and cannot take the visitors cheaply.

Sutherland will fight like mad and though they sel-

(continued page 5)

N.S.W. FIRST DIVISION

TEAMS	AGGREGATE							HOME							AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P		
St. George	3	2	1	—	9	2	5	2	—	—	8	1	4	—	1	—	1	1	1		
Safeway	3	2	1	—	5	1	5	2	—	—	4	0	4	—	1	—	1	1	1		
APIA	2	2	—	—	4	2	4	1	—	—	3	2	2	1	—	—	1	0	2		
Pan Hellenic	2	1	1	—	8	3	3	1	—	—	6	1	2	—	1	—	2	2	1		
Wests	2	1	1	—	1	0	3	1	—	—	1	0	2	—	1	—	0	0	1		
Marconi	2	—	2	—	2	2	2	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	1		
Yugal-Prague	2	—	2	—	2	2	2	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	1		
Auburn	2	—	1	1	3	4	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	2	3	0		
Sutherland	2	—	1	1	2	4	1	—	1	—	2	2	1	—	—	1	0	2	0		
Hakoah	2	—	1	1	1	3	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	0	2	0		
Canterbury	3	—	1	2	2	12	1	—	1	—	0	0	1	—	—	2	2	12	0		
Croatia	3	—	—	—	3	0	4	0	—	—	1	0	1	0	—	—	2	0	3	0	

AT YOUR CLUB

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Saturday, April 13: First Show — LENORE SOMERSET. Second Show — BARRY KRAUSE.

Sunday, April 14: JUDY STONE & M.D.

Monday, April 15: THE GLENN BROTHERS.

Tuesday, April 16: GLORIA PURCELL.

Wednesday, April 17: TOMMY TRINDER.

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE FOR MEMBERS OF

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Sunday, April 7: DANCE, "The Trend" and APRIL CHRISTIAN, vivacious girl with BODY TO SEE and voice to match!

Tuesday, April 9: Selected films from Yugoslavia.

Wednesday, April 10: SPORTS NIGHT. Inter-Club teams selection competition. SPORTS FILMS.

Thursday, April 11: INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE CABARET.

Friday, April 12: GOOD FRIDAY. Club open from 12 noon. Restaurant open as usual. Dance from 7 p.m.

club patrol

Next Wednesday, April 10, at 8 p.m. the Socceros will play a full-scale trial match against the Australian under-23 team, which will have just returned from its three-match Indonesian tour, at Englefield Stadium, Dural.

MARTIN ASHERTON, the coach of Cornthorpe who in addition to his FA Coaching Certificate is also an MCC cricket coach, is to take, would you believe, a fulltime cricket appointment in Holland and will be starting in his new job on May 1.

A young Scottish winger, GEORGE GRAY, 23 who plays for Morton and had a spell in Hong Kong soccer, is keen to migrate to Australia. Highly recommended by Willie Rutherford, his address is 674 Canynne Road, Glasgow, E2, Scotland.

OSCAR ZECHNER, the president of Riverside Rapid, leaves for an overseas business trip on May 15. While abroad he will take in the World Cup.

The ST. GEORGE RE-UNION set down for April 8 has been postponed. Instead, the club will be screening films of the 1953 and 1954 England v. Hungary matches (3-6 and 1-7). Members and friends are cordially invited to watch these classics.

Safeway United have "lent" GEORGE GALBRAITH to Airdrie Scots for 12 months.

Although MARRICKVILLE, now in Second Division, will share Marrickville Oval with Riverside Rapid, they will still have plenty of use of Mackey Park, Tempe. The club's many teams will centre off Mackey Park, which will gradually be developed with a main fenced ground and two junior pitches, advises club president Bruce Livingstone.

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN SUBURBS ASSOCIATION, for a long time Sydney's lagging soccer area for juniors, has made some good progress this year. "A" grade will be conducted over three divisions. Juniors' grading competitions are starting with an increase noted in entries. Forward planning for 1975 is designed to interest many of the "A" grade and Inter-Suburban teams of the district in forming junior sides to propagate the code as has been so successfully done in all other areas. The Association has also increased its quota of representative teams

for 1974. There will be a Queen's Birthday Gala Day, and trips are planned for "A" grade winners at the end of the season.

Yugal-Prague's GEOFF HARCUMBE dislocated his collarbone while playing in the reserves against Auburn last Sunday. He will be out of action for several weeks.

HAKOAH president Frank Lowy warned at the club's fourth Annual General Meeting that if a National League was not established in the very near future Hakoah might withdraw from the First Division and field only an amateur team. Hakoah are pretty cheesed off at the staggering costs of fielding a First Division side in the Sydney competition. Net cost to the club last year was \$99,991. Hakoah received \$21,348 in receipts, but expenses amounted to \$121,339.

In MELBOURNE they are pleased with another big breakthrough for soccer in the schools. This time the GPS schools have formed their competition.

Rothman's are holding a function at the Camperdown Travelodge at 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, to commemorate the opening of the inaugural state-wide ROTHMAN'S CUP competition. The first round opens on Easter Monday, April 15.

Now that AGENOR MUNIZ has returned to the Hakoah fold, it could be that the club will put ADAHILTON SILVA on a new contract. If it comes then there's another pointer that the Light Blues are on the way back.

Safeway's new defensive midfielder, BASIL STONEHOUSE, came to the club from Second Division Middlesbrough, the old home of national captain Peter Wilson. Club manager, of course, is none other than big Jackie Charlton.

Recent arrivals were daughters for the wives of both ADAHILTON SILVA and LUIS DI MELO. Congratulations!

DAVE O'CONNOR, the winger who burst on the First Division scene last year with a flurry of goals for Pan Hellenic, has been "loaned" to Sutherland for 12 months.

SUTHERLAND will be reinforced next week by a 20-year-old English midfielder who served his apprenticeship with Hull City.

Keith, the former international fullback, has been appointed as APIA's new secretary.

ROGER HILLARY (ex-St. George) might be making a comeback to First Division in Canterbury's defence. Failing that, Third Division Warrington is ready to welcome him back into their ranks.

GEORGE MCLELLAND, a first grader in Sydney many years back, was one of the stalwarts who worked to put the Warrington club on the map. A highly qualified accountant, he is now back in England with his family and has taken over the management of a big family company.

OUT SOON!

WATCH FOR OUR WORLD CUP BOOK

An April present — this is our "World Cup 1974" for our readers.

Out before the end of the month, this 88-page guide to the 1974 World Cup finals will be an invaluable guide to all Australian fans whether they travel to Europe for the matches or follow the series back home, on their TV.

This is yet the most ambitious and most information-packed publication ever attempted by Soccer World editors.

Some of the highlights of "World Cup 1974" —

- All the results, teams and details of Australia's three World Cup bids since 1965;
- All the details of the various qualification groups for the 1974 World Cup finals;
- Every result of all past World Cup finals since 1930;
- Pen-portraits of the Australian squad members;
- Story on all the other 15 teams in this year's World Cup finals;
- Charts and graphs on previous World Cups and the relative strengths of the teams;
- The full draw of the series;
- Detailed guide to the World Cup cities and general information about touring in Germany;
- Action photos — and a host of other information.

The booklet, with an attractive color cover, will be on sale at our usual newsagents as well as the major soccer grounds.

A modest \$1 investment will enable you to understand, appreciate and follow the World Cup.

If you cannot obtain your copy anywhere else, send us a postal note for \$1.25 and we will mail you one immediately after it has been published.

And a word of advice: because of the newspaper shortage, we could not print as many copies as we would have liked to in order to meet the demand. So make sure you will secure your copy early.

OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF NSW FEDERATION

THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, APRIL 6
Newtown v. NS-Inter — Erskineville Oval
Rapid v. Manly — Marrickville Oval

SUNDAY, APRIL 7
Wests v. Sutherland — Drummoyne Oval
Croatia v. Canterbury — Marks Field
Pan Hellenic v. Hakoah — Wentworth Park
Safeway v. Marconi — Woonona Oval
St. George v. Auburn — Hurstville Oval
APIA v. Yugal-Prague — Lambert Park
Melita Eagles v. Balgownie — Mona Park
Granville v. Marrickville — Garside Park
Polonia v. Bankstown — Soccer Centre
Corinthians v. Guildford — Jubilee Oval

NEXT WEEK

SATURDAY, APRIL 13
Canterbury v. APIA — Arlington Oval
Marrickville v. Corinthians — Marrickville Oval
NS-Inter v. Polonia — North Sydney Oval

SUNDAY, APRIL 14
Hakoah v. Wests — Wentworth Park
Sutherland v. Croatia — Seymour Shaw Park
Yugal-Prague v. St. George — Marks Field
Marconi v. Pan Hellenic — Marconi Oval
Auburn v. Safeway — Mona Park
Bankstown v. Melita Eagles — Soccer Centre
Balgownie v. Granville — Balgownie Oval
Guildford v. Rapid — Guildford Park
Manly v. Newtown — Inman Park

MONDAY, APRIL 15
(SPLIT ROUND)
Canterbury v. Safeway — Arlington Oval
Sutherland v. St. George — Seymour Shaw Park

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RESULTS & SCORERS

Sutherland

2 (0)

Cacciola 54 min., Bourke 69 min.

P. Hellenic

2 (1)

Harding 29 and 78 mins. (both penalties).

Croatia

0 (0)

A.P.I.A.

1 (0)

Butler 39 min.

Auburn

1 (1)

Keddie 19 min.

Yugal-Prague

1 (0)

J. Alagich 82 min.

Marconi

1 (0)

Richards 59 min.

St. George

1 (0)

Warren 50 min.

Hakoah

1 (1)

Morrow 9 min.

Safeway

1 (1)

Tolson 3 min.

Canterbury

0 (0)

Wests

0 (0)

HOW THEY LINED UP

Haynes 4, Branson 3, Bennett 4, P. Smith 4, Wykes 3, Johnston 3, R. Griffiths 3, Trill 4, P. Thompson 3, Bourke 3, Cacciola 4 (Suggett 78 min.).

TOTAL: 38.

Coach: J. Livingstone.

Match rating: * * *

Tuinman 3, Brankin 3, Rudic 4, Barboutis 3, Palmer 3, Stowell 4, Cullodon 3 (Buckley 63 min.), Harding 3, Manuel 3, Carrizo 4, Ile 3.

TOTAL: 36.

Coach: J. Kalageros.

Match rating: * * *

Roberts 4, McGinn 3, Jenkins 3, Wallace 3, McGhee 3, Russell 4, Blues 3, Rooney 4, Ollerton 5, Rogers 3, Butler 4.

TOTAL: 39.

Coach: T. Anderson.

Hoszowski 3, Lawson 3, Hughes 4, Malone 3, Leak 4 (McMillan 84 min.), Hucker 4, Quedsted 3, Stewart 3, Keddie 3, Walker 4, Sides 3.

TOTAL: 36.

Coach: J. Marston.

Match rating: * * *

Petrovski 3, Trkulja 1, Boskovski 3, Velkovski 3, Rootsey 3, S. McDonald 5, J. Alagich 3, Mihajlovic 3, Srdarevic 3, Perry 3 (Trkulja 11 75 min.), Kuzmanov 3.

TOTAL: 36.

Coach: S. Dacevski.

Murray 4, Degney 4, Robertson 4, Moschen 5, Jones 3, Richards 4, Mihajlovic 3, Campbell 3, Brajkovic 3, Millen 3, A. Griffiths 4.

TOTAL: 40.

Coach: I. Baumgartner.

Match rating: * * *

Fraser 4, Utjesenovic 4, G. Harris 3, Schaefer 4, Coton 4, Stoddart 3, Heron 3, Abonyi 4, Warren 4, Hamilton 4, J. McDonald 3.

TOTAL: 40.

Coach: M. Johnson.

Coe 3, Fekete 3, Mowbray 4, Watkiss 3, Marnoch 4, Mackay 3, Muniz 3 (O'Connor 81 min.), Dolan 3 (Watson 66 min.), Fletcher 3, Baartz 4, Morrow 3.

TOTAL: 36.

Coach: D. Maclaren.

Match rating: * *

Hesford 4, Tuckerman 3, Wilson 4, Gleeson 3, Thompson 3, Bingham 2 (Stonehouse 46 min.), Fryer 3, McGrotty 3, Tolson 4, Alston 3, Rigby 3.

TOTAL: 36.

Coach: P. Wilson.

Fuzes 4, G. Brown 3, Whitehead 4, Mullen 3, J. Xipolitas 3, Balafas 3, Armytage 3, Keri 3 (Welton 75 min.), Pocock 3, Piatta 4 (H. Xipolitas 86 min.), R. Brown 4.

TOTAL: 37.

Coach: L. Hegres.

Match rating: * * *

Eaton 4, Perry 3, Ferguson 3, Radcliffe 3, Curran 4, Gray 3, Trebilcock 3, Turner 3 (Turnbull 72 min.), Lindsay 3, T. Smith 3 (replaced by Iswadi 3, 46 min.), Byles 4.

TOTAL: 36.

Coach: L. Scheinflug.

SUMMING UP THE MATCHES

Sutherland's young, inexperienced defenders literally handed one point to Pan Hellenic, who on their second half display, did not deserve it. Two hand balls, one in each half, resulted in penalties which Dave Harding gratefully converted. Though both were clear-cut penalties, Pan Hellenic were truly beaten. After dominating a drab first half, Hellenic's defence made two huge blunders, both of which resulted in opportunist Sutherland goals. There was no stopping the eager-beaver locals after that and they all but swept Hellenic off their feet, but just when a third Sutherland goal looked imminent, a defender handled again to save a disappointing Pan Hellenic the indignity of defeat. Sutherland's 15-minute scoring burst brought the game to life and fans were treated to a cracking, exciting last 35 minutes.

Crowd: 2,517.

Referee: T. Davies.

— LOU GAUTIER

APIA could not reproduce the form that enabled them to thrash Croatia 4-0 in the Ampol Cup play-off and for the first 40 minutes the home team dominated the field. In the 39th minute, against the run of the play, a Rogers pass from the right corner flag found Terry Butler lurking in front of the near goalpost, whose glancing header gave Ron Corry no chance to save. The goal revitalised APIA and only the first half whistle stopped them from increasing their lead. The second period was played at three-quarter pace, mostly in midfield, with Croatia trying desperately to equalise and APIA looking happy with their lead. APIA nearly paid the penalty for their "safety first" tactics because Croatia created a few good scoring chances and with a bit of luck they could have snatched at least a point in the last 20 minutes or so.

Crowd: 3,005.

Referee: G. Warne.

— FRANK JORDAN

A typical goal by Joe Alagich enabled Yugal-Prague to snatch a point late in the match. Alagich pounced when young Leak was slow in clearing the ball and forced it into the net in a flash. The draw was just about a fair result on the whole 90 minutes, with Auburn having the best of things in the first half and Yugal coming into the game after the interval. The fans, however, probably questioned whether either team was worthy of any points at all. One of the few bright spots of a match marred by inept passing was Steve McDonald's performance for Yugal-Prague. He was absolutely dominant in his tackling and his thoughtful distribution was in glaring contrast to the haphazard display by almost all the others.

Crowd: 1,120.

Referee: B. Wilkinson.

— LINCOLN WALTERS

In a game where defence was the predominant feature, Marconi and St. George justly shared the spoils in a hard fought encounter. Both teams had the chances to swing the result their way, but the defences played so well that the forwards hardly could take the full blame for missing easy chances. Ray Richards, back after suspension, made a lot of difference to the Marconi midfield, which worked cohesively to link the defence and attack with precise and calculated skills. Alfredo Moschen was again a tower of strength, subduing the St. George forwards who could not beat him either with skill or speed. Willie Hamilton and John Warren produced some brilliant movements and at times did open some gaps but these weren't wide enough to give Saints a winning advantage. Manfred Schaefer and Paul Coton were also very safe in the St. George defence which kept the lively Marconi attack under control throughout.

Crowd: 2,200.

Referee: P. Rampley.

— CHARLES SPITERI

The first 20 minutes gave promise of an exciting match and the next 70 completely disproved the point. Safeway used Peter Wilson and Jim Gleeson to pull the shutters down on the keen but unimaginative Hakoah forwards, and for the most part Alan Marnoch was quite able to box up the Safeway "strikers". Max Tolson's third minute goal resulted from superb judgment as he nudged the ball away from Martin Coe. Hakoah thoroughly deserved their equaliser through Tom Morrow. Throughout the rest of the match enough chances were made but Muniz, Fletcher, Baartz, Watkiss and Morrow either recorded near misses or bombed them altogether with monotonous regularity. Safeway's semifinal bid is so obviously geared to home wins and away draws. Is not football more than this?

Crowd: 1,520.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

— KEITH GILMOUR

After an even 25 minutes, Wests' forwards started to stretch the Canterbury defence and it looked as if goals must come. Steve Perry, overlapping down the right wing, and the delicately-placed passes of Trebilcock worried the Canterbury side. However, the tenacious Berries sensed the lack of cohesion in between the Magpies' back-line and forwards, and started to play more confidently to put together some smart movements. The whole Canterbury defence threw themselves into their task and never allowed Wests any breathing space. Ross Brown in the midfield played cultured football for a youngster. Peter Fuzes in goal and Joe Whitehead provided the stability needed to hold out for a well-deserved draw.

Crowd: 1,124.

Referee: A. McKenzie.

— ANDY HENDERSON

TABLES

FIRST DIVISION

	(Second Grade)	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hakoah	2	—	—	—	8	1	4
APIA	2	—	—	—	5	2	4
Yugal-Prague	2	—	—	—	1	6	2
St. George	1	—	—	—	7	2	2
Pan Hellenic	1	—	—	—	1	4	6
Wests	1	—	—	—	2	1	4
Safeway	1	—	—	—	2	1	5
Sutherland	1	—	—	—	2	2	7
Auburn	1	—	—	—	2	1	5
Marconi	1	—	—	—	2	2	7
Croatia	1	—	—	—	2	2	7
Canterbury	1	—	—	—	3	5	10

FIRST DIVISION

	(Third Grade)	W	D	L	F	A	P
Marconi	2	—	—	—	9	8	4
St. George	2	—	—	—	1	5	3
Safeway	1	—	—	—	3	1	3
Pan Hellenic	1	—	—	—	3	1	3
Auburn	1	—	—	—	2	0	2
Wests	1	—	—	—	2	0	2
Croatia	1	—	—	—	1	3	3
Sutherland	1	—	—	—	1	2	5
Hakoah	1	—	—	—	1	2	5
APIA	1	—	—	—	0	2	0
Yugal-Prague	1	—	—	—	0	6	0
Canterbury	1	—	—	—	3	2	9

SECOND DIVISION

	(First Grade)	W	D	L	F	A	P
Granville	1	—	—	—	3	2	3
Guildford	1	—	—	—	2	3	3
Balgownie	1	—	—	—	4	1	2
Bankstown	1	—	—	—	2	0	2
Rapid R'side	1	—	—	—	1	4	4
Manly	1	—	—	—	1	4	2
Marrickville	1	—	—	—	2	2	1
Corinthians	1	—	—	—	1	2	3
Melita Eagles	1	—	—	—	1	2	1
NS-Inter	1	—	—	—	1	1	2
Newtown	1	—	—	—	2	1	6
Polonia	1	—	—	—	2	1	6

SECOND DIVISION

	(Second Grade)	W	D	L	F	A	P
Manly	2	—	—	—	6	4	2
Guildford	2	—	—	—	1	3	2
Granville	1	—	—	—	5	0	2
Balgownie	1	—	—	—	3	1	2
Bankstown	1	—	—	—	2	0	2
Melita Eagles	1	—	—	—	2	0	2
Rapid R'side	1	—	—	—	1	3	2
Marrickville	1	—	—	—	1	2	0
Newtown	1	—	—	—	2	0	0
Corinthians	1	—	—	—	2	0	7
NS-Inter	1	—	—	—	2	2	10
Polonia	1	—	—	—	2	2	10

SECOND DIVISION

	(Third Grade)	W	D	L	F	A	P
Manly	2	—	—	—	4	0	4
Bankstown	2	—	—	—	1	3	2
Melita Eagles	1	—	—	—	3	1	2
Granville	1	—	—	—	1	0	2
NS-Inter	1	—	—	—	0	1	1
Rapid R'side	1	—	—	—	0	0	1
Guildford	1	—	—	—	1	0	1
Marrickville	1	—	—	—	1	1	3
Newtown	1	—	—	—	1	0	2
Corinthians	1	—	—	—	2	0	4
Balgownie	1	—	—	—	2	0	4
Polonia	1	—	—	—	2	0	4

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

FIRST DIVISION	
(Second and Third Grades)	
Canterbury v. Wests	2-7 0-2
Croatia v. APIA	1-3 2-0
Sutherland v. P. Hellenic	0-0 1-1
Hakoah v. Safeway	5-0 2-2
Marconi v. St. George	0-2 1-1
Auburn v. Yugal-Prague	1-2 3-0
SECOND DIVISION	
(All Grades)	
Marrickville v. Melita	2-2 0-2 1-3
Granville v. Corinth	1-1 5-0 1-0
NS-Inter v. Rapid	1-2 2-3 0-0
Balgownie v. Polonia	postponed
Bankstown v. Newtown	2-0 2-1 2-0
Manly v. Guildford	2-3 4-2 1-0

JUNIOR RESULTS

UNDER-14	
Gladesville v. Sh. Districts	3-1
East v. Canterbury	2-0
St. George v. Wests	7-0
Manly v. Sutherland	2-3
Granville v. Bankstown	1-3
Nepean v. Ku-ring-gai	1-2
UNDER-15	
Gladesville v. Sh. Districts	4-1
East v. Canterbury	1-1
St. George v. Wests	5-1
Manly v. Sutherland	1-3
Granville v. Bankstown	1-3
Nepean v. Ku-ring-gai	1-8
UNDER-16	
Gladesville v. Sh. Districts	2-2
East v. Canterbury	1-0
St. George v. Wests	0-0
Manly v. Sutherland	1-1
Granville v. Bankstown	0-1
Nepean v. Ku-ring-gai	2-1

ROTHMAN'S CUP DRAW

This is the draw of the first round of the Rothman's State Cup to be played on Easter Monday:

● Riverina/HMAS Albatross v. Toongabbie	— Nowra/Wagga.
● Blacktown Spartans v. Illawarra Team 2	— Francis Park.
● Bellambi v. Greenwich	— Woonona.
● Bathurst City v. Holroyd	— Bathurst.
● Dee Why v. Sydney University	— Dee Why.
● Artarmon v. Chelsea	— Artarmon.
● Maroubra v. Nepean	— Coral Sea.
● Riverstone v. Hurstville	— Schofields.
● Revesby Rovers v. Queens Park	— Queens Park.
● Padstow Park v. Earlwood	— Hughes Park.
● Canley Heights v. Kingsford	— King Park.
● Leithbridge v. Cabralva	— Jersey Road.
● Blacktown Spurs v. Granville	— Waratah.
● West St. George v. Ryde	— District.
● Concordia v. Sans Souci	— Mahoney Oval.
● Fairfield-Kiev	— bye.

OUR WORLD CUP 22

WE'LL NEED DEFENDERS IN GERMANY

— By LINCOLN WALTERS —

Last week my colleague Lou Gautier gamely declared his choice of 22 players for the World Cup; I'd like to add my tuppence worth to it if it counts for anything.

Basically I agree with his "selections," as will most fans.

Where I beg to differ is the structure of the squad.

He picked his 22 as if it was a normal squad, going into a normal battle against an opposition of equal strength.

I would caution against this for the World Cup. Australia will need more defensive players and less strikers.

Gautier chose six fullbacks and five midfielders; in both categories I would take seven players.

I feel his suggested eight strikers are a great luxury; five would be my limit.

Now, my squad:

Goalies: Fraser, Milisavljevic, Maher.

Defenders: Utjesenovic, Curran, Williams, Harris, Wilson, Schaefer and Watkins.

Midfielders: Richards, Mackay, Warren, Rooney, McDonald, Tolson and Harding.

Strikers: Abonyi, Alston, Baartz, Manuel and Campbell.

Perhaps this needs some explanation — and let me hasten to point out that personal likes and dislikes don't play any part in my suggestions.

Fraser and Milisavljevic have done nothing to justify their exclusion. On the other hand, I would not name Jack Reilly as my third goalie, after his odd behavior in the not too distant past.

He may be one of the most skilled goalkeepers in Australia — but he has not "earned" Rasic's trust, after letting him down several times.

I agree with Gautier on his six fullbacks and then add George Harris as the seventh.

It is quite likely that Rasic will have to play with a sweeper and four fullbacks in all his matches; for three games seven defenders seem to be an absolute must.

Harris is an ideal man for close marking; he has speed and aggressiveness and can play on either flank.

To Gautier's five midfielders I have added two, Harding and Tolson.

I must honestly admit that I don't regard either of them as brilliant players but both could be most useful, in midfield.

This is particularly so because of the many question marks about some of the players; Mackay's mysterious form variations, McDonald's physique, Warren's and Rooney's proneness to injury.



This determined header by Hakoah middle man Jim Mackay left Safeway's McGrorty flatfooted in last Sunday's most forgettable 1-1 draw at Wentworth Park.

The five strikers I would select are all capable of hard grafting as well as front-running; playing the piano or carrying it.

The same cannot possibly be said about the little virtuoso, Billy Vojtek who is a typical speedy striker and no more.

Ollerton is the ideal centre striker in a team built for attack (especially if he has a George Blues on the flank with him), a player who must be catered

for with almost innumerable high crosses before he nods one home.

Against either Germany, he would be like a fish washed ashore.

Buljevic, despite the high regard in which Rasic holds him (to me an eternal mystery), is far too slow, cumbersome and circumspect to be of any use in a tense, fast-moving match.

If Rasic decides to take a few young hopefuls with him on the journey, John Russell and Terry Butler are the ones that should be in the running for berths.

However, this may come about only if any of the "regulars" drops out with a serious injury in the next few weeks.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR NO DECISION YET BY A.S.F. ON F.I.F.A. VOTE

Lou Gautier's article in the March 15 issue of "Soccer World" headed "Australia will vote for Stanley Rous" calls for some comment from me.

The fact is that Mr. Havelange was not met by the ASF, primarily because there was some confusion about the date of his arrival.

Generally, however, you realise, that with my own business interests and with the amount of time I spend on soccer, I have problems about airport arrivals, which are becoming more frequent.

The secretary, Mr. Le Fevre, running a very small organisation and preoccupied with World Cup problems, presentations to the Ministry for Sport with reference to a coaching plan which I have initiated, dealing with the departure of the under-23 team and numerous other matters, frequently finds himself running out of time.

The fact is, however, that both Mr. Le Fevre and I met Mr. Havelange for over two hours on the Friday evening after his arrival and with the help of an interpreter had a long discussion and a detailed exchange of views.

The manner in which the ASF will vote will be determined by the Executive after a discussion, based on the recommendation that will be made to them.

The recommendation to be made by me will depend on the attitude of the two candidates to the specific problems of Australia and



Sir Arthur George

this view was clearly communicated to Mr. Havelange.

I therefore feel that in stating that Australia will vote for Sir Stanley Rous you have conveyed an impression which does not accord with the facts.

I would not, for one moment, preclude the possibility that Australia will vote for Mr. Havelange.

It is possible that the final determination will only be made after hearing from both of them on their attitude towards the matters that I have put before them.

Sir ARTHUR GEORGE,
President, Australian Soccer Federation

SPONSORS FOR BALGOWNIE

Two South Coast car firms are prepared to foot the bill for two or three good players to help Balgownie win promotion to First Division this season.

The firms are Bulli Motor Village and Miller Brothers, who last week joined forces with the Magpies.

Balgownie are now scrutinising the transfer lists in Sydney to see if they can attract two top midfielders that can fit into their team.

Club officials are also looking beyond Sydney and negotiations have been started to attract some top-line players from England or Scotland, but not necessarily for this season.

Club secretary Phil Murphy said this week: "We missed out last year because we could not get one or two good players in midfield, but with five new signings already this season, plus an additional two top players now available, thanks to our sponsors, we have a good chance of winning the Second Division title."

— CHARLES SPITERI

THIRD WIN FOR APIA?

(from Page 1)

dom shine away from home, last week's draw with Pan Hellenic has acted as a tonic.

Croatia, getting nowhere fast with a non-existent forward-line, could be in deep trouble already if beaten by Canterbury at Marks Field.

A Canterbury victory would put the Berries three points ahead of Souths — a handy lead over a fellow candidate for relegation.

POOR CROWDS

Provided there is no outside interference this weekend, the turn-out in First Division — all matches are again played on Sunday — could be the first true pointer to this season's league attendances.

Only 11,486 people saw last Sunday's round but the first two weekends of the championship were not really a fair test.

First the rain, then the petrol strike obviously took a heavy toll.

Despite the bad weather in Round 1 and last week's fuel drought I have a horrible suspicion that the optimistic predictions of an upsurge in interest in 1974 will fail to materialise until most of our teams start dishing out much better football.

Seldom have the opening rounds of a Sydney competition produced so many mediocre matches and rarely have so many so-called "stars" been out of form all at once.

Smalltalk

Why, I asked Rale Rasic the other day, does he still experiment with players in this late, 11th hour for the World Cup?

And furthermore, why does he cling to the hope that he might find an orthodox striker who will not prove to be utter luxury in the matches where Australia's back will be fiercely pressed to the wall?

Rasic, a glib talker and a melancholy figure all at once, argued and explained and defended his theories without providing an acceptable answer.

We met, by pure accident, at an airport lounge and how does one kill a good half hour's waiting with a man like Rasic unless chewing the rag about soccer.

One thing emerged crystal clear from the chat: Rasic is very conscious of the awesome task facing him and his team in Hamburg and Berlin.

PESSIMISTIC

If anything, he is increasingly pessimistic about the outcome of this test; he readily accepts that even a major disaster is now a possibility.

I have known Rasic for several years, before he even moved to Sydney and stepped into the lift that zoomed him to the top of the ladder.

During these last few years I have admired, praised and criticised him, as the occasion demanded it.

Now, to an increasing degree, I fear for him. It seems that, because of the muddle of officialdom in our World Cup preparations, he has lost his appetite for a fight.

It is also possible — as shown by his surprising last minute indecision — that he has discovered something appalling: he hasn't got a team for the Cup.

In the true sense, Rasic never had a team that could have stood the test in Germany with any real hope.

However, at least he had a unit, tried and tested in dozens of battles, that appeared homogeneous, mature and, within our limited ambitions, successful.

In the absence of any suddenly emerging new stars, he could have kept this unit together, undisturbed and fortified with an open expression of trust.

Instead, he has decided to dig out from the mothball his old litmus paper and test new hopefuls, like Reilly, Pye, Ollerton, Pocock, Harding, et al, in case this fresh brew somehow, miraculously, tasted any better.

Whether Rasic likes it or not — he doesn't actually — his course of action will be set for him by the circumstances and opponents in the World Cup.

He will not have the choice of tactics and strategies in any of the three matches; Australia will defend at least 90 per cent of the time.

Rasic knows this; the players know this; we all know this.

In that case, what options has he got? Only one: to blend together a team of defenders and midfielders — minus any strikers at all.

Any Ollerton-type of striker, a front runner pure and simple, who has to be catered for, will be an incredible luxury in matches where the accent is heavily or almost exclusively on defence.

DICTUM

It is quite likely that sooner or later Rasic will accept this dictum and shape his team accordingly.

If so, it wouldn't surprise us a bit to see him use one sweeper, four fullbacks and five midfielders in two waves — with no orthodox striker at all.

Such a team could defend, hold the ball in midfield for at least short periods and occasionally even lurch forward, cautiously and probably briefly.

We do have many midfield players who can also weave an attacking pattern and hit the ball from a distance almost as well as the orthodox forwards; these latter, however, would be of little use to the defence.

Is this type of formation ultra defensive, perhaps even pessimistic? By all means.

But anything else will be an invitation to Australia's suicide in the Cup.

To me it is most amazing that Rale Rasic is not using whatever little time there is left to drill his team in just such a play.

Being a realistic man, he must know that this is his only chance of avoiding some awful drubbings at the hands of the two Germans and even perhaps Chile.

One can only sympathise with Rasic for the botch our administration has created for him; the incredible lack of preparations throughout 1974.

But he must now live with this unhappy fact and salvage whatever he can through cool thinking and planning.

Should the team flop in the Cup, Rasic will be the first crucified, not the little known or totally obscure officials who had all but sabotaged our preparations.

So far, after each and every World Cup bid, Australia's national coach vanished from the scene. It would be a pity if Rasic followed them.

— MIKE RENWICK

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The Japanese national team will tour Europe in June and July to play matches in West Germany and England. They will take time off to watch the World Cup. The Japanese recently concluded an Asian tour which took in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. In Singapore Juventus Sao Paulo, of Brazil, beat them 1-0 but Japan defeated Singapore 1-0. In Kuala Lumpur the Japanese beat Malaysia 1-0 and in Hong Kong the visitors played a 0-0 draw with the local representative XI. Two of Japan's top players, Kamamoto and Sugiyama did not tour.

● Japan's Player of the Year is Mitsubishi FC's Ryuichi Sugiyama, who also won the award in 1964 and 1970.

● Ajax's national team goalkeeper, Cruy, is expected to retire after the World Cup. The club is already looking for his successor, who could be FC Twente's Schrijvers.

● Ajax's Dutch international winger Swart can retire happy. His recent testimonial match in Amsterdam netted him \$79,000.

● Bayern Munchen, raging hot favorites for this year's European Champions' Cup, have not lost a match at home for four years.

● The Torino club is being sued by Turin's second largest hospital for unpaid bills covering their players' treatment, operations and ambulance fees. The hospital claims the club owes \$20,000.

● Ajax, despite their early elimination in this year's European Cup, is still Europe's most sought-after team. In April and May the Dutch champions will play midweek in France, England, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium and Scotland. Ajax' match fee is \$20,000 — down \$10,000 on what they were asking, and getting, when Johan Cruyff played for them.

● Xamax, the club from Neuchatel the Soccerroos play against in a pre-World Cup warm-up match on June 1, is the sensation of the Swiss championship. Only promoted this season, Xamax have been near the top since the kick-off and are now in second place, behind run-away leaders FC Zurich.

● Bayern Munchen will sign Gerd Zimmermann, Fortuna Koln's fullback, next season. They are also after another midfielder.

● Czechoslovakia beat Poland 2-0 in a junior international at home last week.

● In a European Amateur Championship qualifying match at Eindhoven, Holland beat France 2-0 to advance to the quarterfinals.

● The new president of the Yugoslav FA is Maron Korobar, the president of the Macedonian High Court.

● The soccer season in the Soviet Union started in mid-March with the early rounds of the USSR Cup.

● Wacker Innsbruck seem certain to clinch their fourth successive Austrian First Division title. They have a decisive lead with seven rounds remaining.

● France defeated Rumania 1-0 in Paris last week. Ironically, the French are now managed by Rumania's most famous coach, Stefan Kovacs (ex-Ajax).

● Some 1973 South American champions: Peru — Defensor Lima; Colombia — Nacional Bogota; Bolivia — Wilsterman.

● Of the English FA Cup semifinalists Liverpool's only win was in 1965 when they defeated Leeds in the final. Newcastle, who have won the trophy more times than any other club except Aston Villa, have to go back to 1955 for their last win in the final when they beat Manchester City. Burnley's only final win was in 1914, while Leicester, who have been runners-up four times in the past 25 years, have yet to win the trophy.

World Cup strike?

The International Federation of Professional Footballers (FIF Pro) has threatened to call a strike during the World Cup finals unless the working conditions of its members are improved. Gerhard Wiesner, Secretary-General of FIF Pro, which represents the professional players in most Western European countries, said: "A strike is undoubtedly possible. It is just a question of what it will look like." The Federation has requested that players should have a free choice of their clubs, transfer freely and have uniform disciplinary regulations and social security conditions.

Official — Miljanic will coach Real

It's now official: Milan Miljanic is the new boss of Real Madrid. Yugoslav's World Cup coach last week signed a two-year contract in Madrid. Under the terms of his contract Miljanic will be paid \$115,000 during his stay in Spain, irrespective of the results achieved. He will take over on July 20.

South African import quota?

A fierce argument is raging in South Africa over proposals to reduce the number of overseas players in the National League. Several club presidents think the time is ripe to impose a quota system to encourage South African-born players to feature more prominently in the leading clubs, some of which field as many as 10 imports. Though the National League continues to boom, with crowds of up to 40,000 at big matches in Durban and Johannesburg, some officials want the game to take a more local look. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

Albert's farewell

Florian Albert played his last official match for Ferencvaros when they met provincial Zalaegerszeg, winning 3-0. A crowd of 30,000 turned up for the relatively unglamorous match. Albert came in at halftime, a 1-0; he made the second goal for Brankovits and then scored the third one, beating a fullback and the goalie with a twist and walking the ball into the net.

Heart-stopper!

Soccer fans beware! Stay cool when watching matches on television or you could be risking your health. Televised football imposes a greater strain on the heart than the most intriguing detective show. A group of West German doctors, researchers at a new medical institute in Heidelberg, found viewers' pulses beat an average of 60 to 65 times a minute during detective films and rose to 70 beats during particularly exciting parts. But they recorded up to 127 pulsebeats a minute on the volunteer viewers when they screened football matches. Dramatic goalmouth scenes sent the rate skyrocketing to 45 beats above normal. A doctor said after the tests: "Watching soccer on TV increases the risk of heart attacks. We advise viewers not to identify too much with teams or individual players."

Crowd behavior investigation

Crowd behavior at First Division grounds is to be investigated by a special committee at the request of the new Labor Government, the English Football Association announced last week. A five-man panel would visit each stadium and discuss crowd safety arrangements with the club, the police and other responsible people. The committee also would study the relationship between discipline on the field and crowd safety, particularly the effect of dissent against referees' decisions. The creation of the panel resulted from a meeting between FA officials and Mr. Denis Howell, Minister of State for Sport, to whom its findings will be reported.

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WORLD CUP NEWS AND VIEWS



WORLD CUP DIARY

● Just in case you believe some of the stories about Chile's lack of World Cup preparations: they will play seven internationals in April against Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia, Haiti, Jamaica and the USA.

● Omar Sivori, Argentina's deposed national team coach, will still be at the World Cup — as a commentator on Italian radio.

● Zaire's right winger, Mayanga Maku, is the player the Brazilians fear most in the World Cup. Maku makes it his speciality to score brilliant goals against touring Brazilian teams. He so impressed Santos officials recently that they offered him a two-year contract which Maku had to decline because of national service commitments.

● "Lubanski will be fit for the World Cup" — that's the good news a leading Harley Street specialist told Polish manager-coach Kazimierz Gorski after giving the injured star another thorough check-up last week.

● Haiti performed well against Uruguay last month at Port-au-Prince, only losing 0-1 and drawing 0-0.

● Yugoslav military authorities have placed World Cup stars Dragan Dzacic and Slobodan Jankovic in detention for breach of army regulations. Both players, who are conscripts on a year's national service, were punished for playing for their club, Red Star Belgrade, against Atletico Madrid in the European Cup without military permission. Dzacic was given a five-day sentence and Jankovic 10 days.

● Another win to East Germany. In their latest mid-week practice match they defeated Swedish First Division side Djurgarden 2-0 at Gern. Four days later, the East Germans beat Czechoslovakia 1-0, with a 13th minute goal by Joachim Streich, in East Berlin.

● Carlos Alberto, Jairzinho and Paul Cesar were the first casualties of the Brazilian camp. The three stars had to miss Brazil's first warm-up game — a 1-1 draw in Mexico City.

● The World Cup organisers have now confirmed that the match between West Germany and Chile in West Berlin on June 14 is also a sell-out. There are 18,000 tickets still available for Chile-East Germany on June 18 and 26,000 for Australia's game

against Chile on the 22nd. The Berlin Olympic Stadium has a 85,000 spectator-capacity.

● Poland could only draw 1-1 with Fortuna Dusseldorf, the German Bundesliga club, in Warsaw, last week. Holland and Austria also drew 1-1 last week.

● Roary Superscot — that's the name of the Scottish World Cup team's mascot, a little lion now marketed all over Scotland. From a number of promotions and endorsements, each Scottish World Cup player will receive at least \$18,000 — before even kicking a ball.

● The security arrangements for the World Cup matches will cost the organisers about \$200,000.

DUTCH PLANS

Holland's 22 World Cup players will assemble on May 21 at Zeist for a 12-day camp.

Some players, however, may only come late. Feyenoord qualifies for the final of the UEFA Cup, the second leg of which is scheduled for May 22.

Before leaving for Germany, the Dutch will play three matches, including two full internationals, all at home.

On May 25 their opponents will be FC Köln (West Germany) and on June 1, in Rotterdam, Holland will meet Argentina.

Four days later the international against Rumania in Amsterdam will serve as a full dress rehearsal for Holland's World Cup opener, on June 15 against Uruguay at Hannover, a match which, incidentally, is on the agenda of SOCCER WORLD's reporters at the World Cup as Hannover is only 180 kilometres from Hamburg where the Socceros will have played East Germany 24 hours earlier.

STOP PRESS

The ASF announced yesterday that Uruguay will play Australia twice this month — on April 25 in Melbourne and at Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday, April 27.

Helmut Schoen criticised for experimenting

"No more experiments" wrote last week the West German sports weekly "Kicker" in its editorial, referring to their national team's preparations for the World Cup.

"No coach or manager responsible for his team's World Cup fate could possibly start experimenting now with new players.

"If somebody is still not further advanced in his preparations at this stage than juggling with new players, he has surely neglected his duties in the past.

"Every manager worth his salt not only knows by now his final squad but, perhaps with one or two exceptions, even his exact team."

Well, Helmut Schoen certainly cannot be accused of experimentation. Although he has tried out many players in the last 20 months or so, he has now returned to the team that won the European championship in 1972.

Against Scotland last week in Frankfurt he fielded the same side with two exceptions: Vogts, the brilliant Moenchengladbach full-back, who was out in 1972 with a serious injury and left-winger Herzog, a newcomer to the team from Fortuna Dusseldorf.

Nobody could accuse Schoen of going overboard for youth, either: the average age of his team against Scotland was 27 years while the Scottish average was just over 25.

Only fullback Paul Breitner and midfielder Uli Hoessens, both 22, can be described as "young" in Schoen's team where goalies

— From HANS SCHMIDT in Frankfurt —

Sepp Maier, at 30, is the oldest. It's hard to believe, but true: both Beckenbauer and Muller are already 28 — while Netzer, Wimmer and Grabowski are 29.

This was the German team, with the numbers indicating the age and full international caps of the players:

Maier 30/49; Vogts 27/49; Beckenbauer 28/75; Schwarzenbeck 26/21; Breitner 22/18; Hoessens 22/18; Netzer 29/34; Wimmer 29/22; Grabowski 29/36; Muller 28/53; Herzog 27/2.

These were the reserves: Nigbur 25/1; Hottges 30/65; Cullmann 24/9; Bonhof 22/2; H. Kremers 25/4; Heynckes 28/27.

Up there Caszely

Chile's ace striker, Caszely, now with Spanish Second Division club Levante in Valencia, is in indifferent form.

"They tricked me in Spain," he complained this week to a newspaper reporter.

"When Levante signed me, they assured me it was a top team, certain to be promoted. In truth, it's a weak side and likely to be relegated to Third Division."

Caszely and Netzer, the German star now with Real Madrid, are sharing the same problem: everybody is expecting them to bolster a relatively weak team.

"I can hardly wait for the World Cup when I can appear for Chile," he said.

"There at least I can combine with players whom I know and who have a high degree of skill. "Here in Valencia, I'm just wasting my time."

Argentina set to go

Argentina's pre-World Cup plans are ready.

On April 22 they will play against Romania in Buenos Aires, then on May 18 they will play France in Paris, on May 22 England in London, May 26 Italy in Rome and May 29 Poland in Warsaw.

Early June they will play at least two more matches against European sides.

Australia, meanwhile... but that's another unhappy story!

The Swedish team which qualified for the World Cup finals, as it lined-up before last November's play-off against Austria at Gelsenkirchen: Back row, from left to right: Magnusson, Kindvall, Tapper, Edstrom, Sandberg. Front row: Olsson I, Olsson II, Hellstrom, Nordqvist (captain), Grahn, Grip.

WIN TO GERMANS

Wolfgang Overath was a shock withdrawal from the West German team which beat Scotland 2-1 at Frankfurt last week.

Overath said he had pulled out because of his poor form.

The FC Köln stopper had been severely criticised by the West German Press following his club's elimination from the UEFA Cup by Tottenham.

The West Germans all but outclassed the depleted Scots, who lined up minus several of their "Angels", and the score greatly flattered Willie Ormond's boys, who scored their consolation goal in the 79th minute through Kenny Dalglish.

Sixty-thousand spectators, including Chancellor Willy Brandt, watched the game at the Waldstadion.

COACH RAFANELI

SRETAN RAFANELI, the classy midfielder whose masterly displays enchanted Sydney crowds in his Yugoslav playing days, is now a fully qualified coach. Sretan wants to impart some of his knowledge and is keen to join a First Division club as an assistant or minor grade coach to gain further experience before launching himself into a full-time coaching career in Sydney. He can be contacted by phoning 747-5815 or writing to 47 Fitzroy Street, Burwood.

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SYDNEY SECOND DIVISION TOUGH FOR BALGOWNIE IN SYDNEY THIS WEEK

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

After two rounds of the competition — not even fully completed at that — only Balgownie are sitting pretty from all the promotion hopefuls.

The Magpies did not play last weekend because some Council official down the Coast decided ON FRIDAY that the ground was unplayable ON SUNDAY!

So they sat back and watched Granville having their wings clipped by Corinthians and Melita Eagles struggle to salvage a point against newcomers Marrickville.

Marrickville v. Melita Eagles 2-2

Tall midfielder Norman Hanlon twice put Marrickville in the lead and the Eagles forced a draw with only six minutes to spare.

Hanlon and George McCulloch teamed up to grab the midfield away from Melita in the first half and against a strong breeze the Eagles rarely threatened the Marrickville goal with the exception of Joe Farrugia, who cracked in the equaliser just before halftime.

After Marrickville went ahead soon after the resumption, Melita were still running ragged, but striker Farrugia rose again to the occasion to get the side out of trouble with another brilliant goal in the top corner of the net.

Fullback Steve Hardy had a tremendous game in the Marrickville defence.

Marrickville: Horiotopoulos, Hardy, Murus, Pondekas, McLoughlin, Hanlon (2), Mackin, Gould, McCarthy, McCulloch, Henschaw.

Melita Eagles: McKechie, Knaus (Molyneux), Cook, Van Blerk, Balenzuela, Dougan, Hawkins (Vrolyks), Matthews, Scierras, Farrugia (2), Henderson.

Granville v. Corinthians 1-1

A magnificent performance by Corinthians' goalie Gary Richardson gave Granville their first shock of the season when they could only pick up a point at home.

It was a hard, fast game right from the word go and once Bert Jagger put Corinthians in front from the penalty spot Granville were in trouble.

But after the break, the locals quickened the pace and Graham Hann finally broke away midway through the second half to beat Richardson with a thundering shot.

The game was kicked off by the Granville M.L.A. Mr. Pat Flaherty.

Granville: Watson, Selfridge, O'Maye, Brown, Gardiner, Waters, Spilarewicz, Gilmour, Smith, Fraser, Hann (1).

Corinthians: Richardson, McCulloch, Draddy, Jagger (1), Harmon, Pappas (Stevens), Fowler, Hendry, Evans, Codling, Corral.

NS-Inter v. Rapid 1-2

A goal in the third minute by Frank Eipel-dauer paved the way for a narrow, but deserved victory for Rapid in their initial game in Second Division.

Paul Massi, the former Canterbury player, equalised for Inter from the penalty spot before Klaus Okon, in a solo effort, tore down the wing to slam home the winner from 40 metres, after a deflection by Impelezzeri in the 84th minute.

NS-Inter: Wupper, Jones, Maxwell, Ribera, Thompson, Impelezzeri, Spresian, Poletto, Massi (1), Somer, Rushworth.

Rapid: Iro, Threlfo, Okon (1), Telfer, Schmidt, Stuart, Williams, Prophet, Jenkins, Eipel-dauer (1), Hillhouse (Doller).

Manly v. Guildford 2-3

An impressive performance by 19-year-old forward Michael Stephenson helped Guildford turn the tables on Manly at Inman Park. Guildford exploited the looseness in the Manly defence while withstanding any pressure exerted by the Manly forwards.

Chris Lowe and John Brewin were exceptionally steady when Manly tried to salvage a point towards the end of an exciting match.

Guildford: Wilson, Parle, Brewin, Lowe, Schofield, Cornford, Dobbin (1), (Griffiths) Haydec, Stephenson, Williams (2), Coleman.

Bankstown v. Newtown 2-0

Newtown matched their opponents in an even first half as the ball switched from one end to the other. However, after the break, David Burke put the Towns in the lead with a well taken goal after splitting the Newtown defence.

Eddie Paterson, back in the team after a long spell with a broken leg last season, sealed the result for Bankstown with a penalty, 10 minutes from the end. Bankstown: Amory, Fitzgerald, Hughes, Madden, Sheldrick, Farrell, Paterson (1), Reynolds, Jankowski, Flick, Burke (1).

THIS WEEK

Most important match of the weekend is the clash between Balgownie and Melita Eagles at Mona Park.

The Eagles will have to pull all stops against the Magpies if their promotion hopes are not to take a severe tumble while the provincials are almost certain to have some new faces in their team to make sure of victory.

On present indications, Balgownie should start favourites, but a draw is also a distinct possibility.

In the other matches I take Granville, Marrickville, Newtown and Guildford to win, and Polonia and Bankstown to draw.

SYDNEY DIVISION THIRD

Belmore and Campbelltown City celebrate the start of the Third Division season by setting themselves up on two excellent grounds — Belmore at Black Oval, Canterbury, and Campbelltown at the new Wedderburn Park in Rangers Road, South Campbelltown.

Belmore set up a separate committee to handle senior affairs, which gives both seniors and juniors the chance to concentrate closely on their own areas of operation.

Coach for 1974 is Dennis Brooker, who replaces evergreen Col Rae. He has some good material to work on, as the average age of players over the three teams is only 20 years.

Dennis is also an outstanding goalkeeper, and the Belmore brigade consider themselves fortunate that Canterbury did not retain him after he started there in 1973.

Amongst the Belmore players are Wayne Wardman and John Brown, both of whom played superbly in Belmore High's strong Tasman Cup side in 1973.

Warringah are hoping for big things, starting with their clash with Northern Districts at Graham Reserve on Sunday.

Ron Bartlett has put the side through some commando-type preparations, and strength has been gained by the signing of Bobby Jones and Roy Barker from Manly.

Revesby Workers open up at Milperra Reserve against West Ryde on Sunday. Brian Jerison and Ken Thorpe are shaping well, as is Greg Gill in defence.

The Workers pulled off a 2-2 draw with Second Division Bankstown in the final of the Neil Adams Memorial Day competition — a good sign for the year.

This weekend's draw: Saturday: West Sutherland v. Belmore — Seymour Shaw, Arncliffe Scots v. Wentworth v. Cahill Park.

Sunday: Warringah Saints v. Northern Districts — Graham Reserve, Revesby Workers v. Marrickville — Milperra Reserve, Ku-ring-gai v. Campbelltown — Acron Oval, Gladesville Ravens v. Uni. NSW — Peel Park. — Keith Gilmour

COOK'S TOUR OF MELBOURNE

John Gorton, the former Board of Management chairman, is not optimistic on the success of GTV 9 televising State League games this season. Gorton has said our standard is not good enough for "live" screening and I subscribe to this view. GTV9 and the VSF are reported to have signed a contract to screen the games for the next three years with reports that no fee will change hands for the first season and no report of the remuneration the VSF will get for the last two years of the contract.

Sjel De Bruyckere, the former Dutch and Australian international, who has coached several State League clubs since quitting the playing side of the game nearly a decade ago, is back in business after being clubless for some time. Sjel has taken on the hot seat of soccer and is now coach to Polonia following the recent resignation of Richard Gamaski who is going overseas. To get Polonia back on the rails after a diabolical night soccer season, De Bruyckere needs at least several new signings and plenty of time.

NEW GROUND FOR CROSS

George Cross, who have played on many different grounds since they came into the State League in 1958, are on the move once more after having rented JUST's New Footscray Road quarters for the past three years. The Cross are to set-up shop temporarily at Martin Reserve, Fawkner, in the Northern District of Melbourne, and hope eventually to become the tenant of a large sports complex being planned by the Broadmeadows Council.

Back for a third stint as secretary of Juventus is John D'Andrea, one of the founder members of the VSF and who succeeds the deposed Gilbert Martin, who also had three stints as scribe of the club.

George Cross have recently played a series of charity games in the Broadmeadows district in a goodwill campaign and among those who benefited was one of the minor Australian Rules clubs.

Nothing definite has yet been decided in connection with running soccer pools in Victoria. At least this was the impression gained following a recent TV interview given by the Victorian Premier, Mr. Hamer.

Reports that Peter Bourne, the brilliant South Melbourne-Hellas midfielder will move to Hakoah and that Mike Pye, the backbone of the Wilhelmina defence, could land in Sydney are apparently without substance.

Hakoah recently hanelled Frankston Pines' new ground — Monterey Reserve — which includes a \$24,000 pavilion which the club have almost all paid off. Hakoah did the right thing too — they took their strongest team, including Jack Reilly, Mick Micevski, etc.

NIEROBICZ COMES HOME

George Nierobicz, the Keilor City player who was transferred to Polonia last season, has returned to Keilor.

Steve Gadsby, of Hakoah, has been out of action for several weeks with a bout of glandular fever.

Joe Mifsud, the Hibernians (Malta) defender who has been in Melbourne for fully 18 months trying to get a clearance from his former club, has, according to a report from Malta, a \$4,000 fee on his head. Both George Cross and Green Gully Ajax have been reported to be angling after his services.

Rudy Muskee, the clever Wilhelmina forward, has been missing from the Ringwood side's ranks lately. And for good reason — he is holidaying-honeymooning back in Holland.

— JIM COOK

BONDI-CONCORDIA TO OPEN SEASON

Inter-Suburban divisions have consolidated into excellent competitions over the past few years, and this weekend's opening round should bring some bright displays.

In First Division Bondi Marines and Concordia meet at Waverley Oval, and Nepean plays St. George on Cook Park, two fine Saturday offerings.

Concordia will need to have their wits about them to cope with Bondi, who are in peak condition under the gentle coaxing of big Ronnie Davis.

Last year Bondi were third in the competition, and this year they will field former Irish pro Joey Campbell and John Oxley in the midfield.

In defence they have picked up Nigel Luxton, formerly with Maroubra.

The front line will have stalwarts Alan Ward and Alex Gardiner, plus new signings Ernie Roberts and John Carter.

Greenwich, who try conclusions with Yagoona at O'Neil Park on Sunday, have lost the services of Fred Hanley, who has finally packed it up.

and are aiming to head upwards again.

New secretary David Burke is confident the Coves are back on the move. The first team is almost completely changed from last year, and coach Steve Robinson, a former Grimsby Town player, has been working them well.

Newcomers are mainly locals, with Billy Duncan a good gain, as well as some Englishmen.

Lethbridge, under former Auburn and South Coast player Jim Strachan, included a 3-0 win over Marrickville in their trial game, bag, and reckon it was no fluke.

They have collected Danny Chalmers, ex-Auburn, and John Hayes, from South Sydney Amateurs and another worthwhile gain is former Manly player, Kevin McCallum.

Eastwood Town wound up the trials with a 4-2 win over Northern Districts, and with Willie Cunningham and Morrie Smith providing the experience they could well be the team to watch.

Their first team has been strengthened by former West Ryde players Bruce West and Cam McDonald, and two-thirds of the play-

ers of their four senior teams are under 21.

Third Division appears wide open, and amongst the newcomers is the well-supported Cavallara side.

This Saturday: Nepean United v. West St. George — Cook Park, Bondi Marines v. Concordia — Waverley Oval 1, Sydney Uni. v. Padstow Park — Sydney Uni. No. 2, North Bankstown v. Lethbridge Park — George Green Oval, North Ryde v. Auburn Juniors — North Ryde Oval, Kingsford v. Earlwood — Turrawall Park.

Sunday: Arncliffe RSL v. Blacktown Spartan — Arncliffe Park, Riverstone-Schofield v. Chelsea — Schofields Park, Yagoona v. Greenwich — O'Neil Park, Queens Park v. Toongabbie — Queens Park, Lane Cove v. Artarmon — Pottery Green, Revesby Rovers v. Macquarie Uni. — Amour Park, South Sydney v. Maroubra Utd. — Booralua Park, Holroyd v. Eastwood Town — W.

Guildford, Ryde District v. Cavallara — E.L.S. Hall S/G, Canley Heights v. Baulkham Hills — King Park, Blacktown Spurs v. Hurstville — Marayong Oval, Fairfield-Kiev v. Dee Why — Knight Park.

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